

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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P 210830Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4024

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 0324

NEA/INS FOR KUX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CGEN, NP

SUBJECT: PERMIT TO CLIMB MT. EVEREST - REVEREND FORD

REF: KATHMANDU 0284

1. FOLLOWING LETTER DATED JANUARY 9 ADDRESSED TO DENNIS KUX
RECEIVED BY MISTAKE AT EMBASSY JANUARY 21 FROM WILLIAM L. PUTNAM,
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB.

QUOTE: DEAR MR. KUX:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOURS OF DECEMBER 29TH CONCERNING THE
REVEREND FORD'S APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CLIMB
IN NEPAL. IN VIEW OF THE ACTIONS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN
WHICH SEEM, SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, TO BE AT VARIANCE
WITH PAST PRACTICE-NAMELY OF ENDORSING A MOUNTAINEERING
APPLICATION ON THE BASIS OF A RECOMMENDATION OTHER THAN
THAT OF THIS ORGANIZATION, WE WISH TO BE FIRMLY ON RECORD
WITH YOU AND THROUGH YOU TO ANY AND ALL OTHER PARTIES THAT
MAY BE CONCERNED THAT WE CAN ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY WHAT-
SOEVER FOR ANY ACTS OR FAILURES TO ACT THAT MAY RESULT FROM
THIS EXPEDITION.

WE HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE ALASKA ALPINE CLUB, BUT AS I
TOLD YOU BEFORE, WE HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST WITH
ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO OBTAIN ENDORSEMENT SUCH AS YOU
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HAVE GIVEN, THAT HAVE FOUND OTHER ACRONYMS THAT RESEMBLED

THAT OF THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB.

THE LIMITED INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE DEFINITELY LEADS US TO THE OPINION THAT THE REVEREND FORD'S EXPEDITION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE A CREDIT TO AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING, NOR IS IT LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRY OF NEPAL AND OURS. WE WISH YOU TO KNOW THIS, AND IN ORDER THAT THERE BE NO QUESTION OF THE RECORD IN THIS REGARD, I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DISTRICT IN WHICH I LIVE.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

WILLIAM L. PUTNAM, PRESIDENT END QUOTE

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB HAS DELIVERED COPY OF LETTER TO MFA MOUNTAINEERING DIVISION. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF HEAD OF MOUNTAINEERING DIVISION SAID THAT DESPITE DISCLAIMER FROM AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB THEY ACCEPT ENDORSEMENT OF FORD EXPEDITION BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

CARGO

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NNN

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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